

REPORT

OF THE

ACCOUNTANTS, AGENT OF TOWN FARM, AGENT FOR
SELLING LIQUOR, AND SUPERINTENDING
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 8, 1859.

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT.

The subscribers, Accountants for the town of Francestown for
the year ending March 8, 1859, submit the following Report:

STATEMENT.

Whole amount of Taxes assessed, \$3121 86

Appropriated as follows:

State Tax,	\$309 40	
County do.,	546 44	
Town do.,	2266 02	
		\$3121 86

The Treasurer of the town charges himself with the following
sums, viz:

Balance in the treasury last year,	\$584 30	
Cash borrowed by the Selectmen,	800 00	
Cash received of I. Batchelder, Agent Town Farm	108 00	
Amount town and school taxes,	3074 75	
Cash received for support of county paupers,	74 47	
do. railroad tax,	217 38	
do. literary fund,	98 48	
do. R. N. Marden, liquor agent 1857,	5 97	
do. D. Tobie, agent town farm, 1857,	122 92	
Total amount of receipts,		\$5086 27

The Treasurer credits himself by the following disbursements, ordered by the Selectmen :

FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Paid District No 1,	\$61 21
No. 2,	73 93
No. 3,	246 16
No. 4,	90 98
No. 5,	152 44
No. 6,	80 65
No. 7,	71 45
No. 8,	50 86
No. 9,	30 41
No. 10,	45 33
No. 11,	50 22
No. 12,	29 25

\$982 89

Geo. F. Pettee, for services as superintending School Committee,	48 72
John H Goodale, School Commissioner,	17 68

\$1049 29

EXTRA REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Paid Stephen D. Holt, extra repairs of highways and bridges,	\$15 00
John G. Proctor, for repairing highway,	1 20
Nahum Farnum, for cash advanced to repair Deering road,	103 73
Thomas E. Fisher for bridge plank,	12 55
Thomas P. Rand, repairing,	6 50
Edw'd Downs, bridge plank and labor,	3 00
Geo. A. Dunklee, repairing bridge,	3 00
Joseph George, lumber for bridge,	7 48
P. L. Clark, cash advanced for labor and materials for repairing bridge,	8 25
Estate of John L. Kingsbury, extra work on highway,	1 17
D. W. Hill, plank and stringers for bridge	17 13
Wm. Ferren, extra work on highway,	2 00
Isaac A. Prentiss, plank and labor on bridge,	9 15
Isaac A. Prentiss, extra labor on highway,	9 25
Moses Fisher, bridge plank,	8 05

AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,

\$217 46 \$1049 29

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,	\$217 46	\$1049 29
Moses B. Fisher stringers for bridge,	2 11	
Mason H Balch, bridge plank,	1 84	
P. F. Farnum, extra work on highway,	20 16	
David S. Perkins, bridge plank,	18 94	
David S. Perkins, repairing highways,	2 00	
D. W. Hill, land damage,	7 00	
D. W. Hill, making new highways,	25 00	
McLane heirs, land damage,	4 00	
F. H. Dunklee, land damage, widening highway,	10 00	
		\$298 51

BREAKING ROADS.

Paid Edmund Shattuck, breaking roads,	\$9 52
Clark W. Burnham, do.	13 21
Leonard Spaulding, do.	6 30
Benj. Dean, do.	5 80
Albert N. Whitfield, do.	12 25
P. L. Clark, do.	4 50
Wm. Patch, do.	6 40
Daniel Tobie, do.	3 78
Wm. P. Ferren, do.	15 18
P. C. Kidder, do.	3 10
James C. Follansbee, do.	11 56
James C. Follansbee, per order Wm. A. Lord, do.	9 75
Isaac A Prentiss, do.	1 90
Thomas E. Fisher, do.	2 25
Herman Hardy, do.	4 10
Joseph George, do.	4 17
Hiram Perley, do.	3 10
Samuel Stevens, do.	2 85
Jacob W. Cooper, do.	4 25
Edw'd Downs, do.	8 80
Samuel Martin, do.	6 60
D. W. Hill, do.	3 90
D. S. Perkins, 1857, and 1858, do.	18 35
Wm. R. Sawyer, do.	5 60
E. A. Wilson, do.	7 65
E. K. Batchelder, do.	6 70
Thomas P. Rand, do.	6 50
Calvin Lord, do.	6 25
George F. Pettee, do.	5 47
Wm. L. Talbot, do.	6 90

AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,	\$206 59	\$1347 80
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AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,	\$206 59	\$1347 80
H. H. Joslin, do.	3 10	
Moses Fisher, do.	1 30	
Moses B. Fisher, do.	12 15	
N. Whiting, do.	7 50	
Wm. Hopkins, do.	2 80	
Wm. Quigley, do.	4 50	
M. H. Balch, do.	3 80	
John Weston, do.	2 25	
David S. Dennison, do.	17 35	
J. K. Chandler, do.	1 20	
John Carleton, do.	7 20	
A. R. Todd, do.	6 10	
Samuel B. Collins, do.	4 38	
Hirah Gilbert, do.	2 50	
Wm. A. Lord, do.	7 25	
S. F. Butterfield, do.	9 40	
John Patch, do.	4 40	
M. W. Emerson, do.	2 50	
P. F. Farnum, do.	8 30	
David Butterfield, do.	6 20	
K. W. Emerson, do.	4 15	
Stephen D. Holt, do.	5 20	
Wm. Cochran, do.	6 74	
Luther Hardy, do.	2 10	
Jona. Patch, do.	3 80	

\$342 86

SUPPORT OF PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

Paid I. Batchelder, Overseer of the Poor, as follows :

For support of Ira Brown and family,	107 41
Widow H. Clark,	31 58
Stearns Hutchinson's family,	29 07
Dr. Pierce's bill for attending Hutchin- son family,	14 00
Mary O. Bailey,	13 84
Widow Pond,	14 00
Mrs. Mary Sims,	24 09
Dr. Pierce's bill attending Mrs. Lewis,	18 00
Leonard Morse family,	5 00
James Searle,	2 00
Mrs. Hall, (county)	35 00
Hugh McLane, (county)	28 14
James Foote, (Nashua)	10 41
Abram Hodgman, (county)	2 50

AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,

\$335 04 \$1690 66

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,	\$335 04	\$1690 66
A. Robbins, (county)	4 92	
Grave clothes for Mrs. Hall, (county)	1 00	
Support of transient persons, (county)	3 00	
Expenses out of town on pauper business,	23 40	
		\$367 36

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Jonas White, note and interest,	\$278 92
John Fisher, interest on notes,	30 00
Wm. L. Talbot, for services on Town	
Farm, 1857,	250 00
Thomas Gay, note interest,	337 51
H. Vose's bill, making and printing	
Town Reports, 1858,	19 25
Jesse Woodbury, damage for loss of	
horse on highway,	76 66
Paul Otis, painting meeting house,	131 00
Starrett, Downs & Co., paints and oil	
for meeting house,	113 21
N. R. Marden, for cash paid by him for	
liquors, 1857,	104 36
Wm. Bixby, interest on "Woodbury	
Fund,"	60 00
I. Batchelder, potatoes for Stearns	
Hutchinson,	7 70
Stephen Carleton, note and interest,	211 31
L. K. Brown, rebuilding grave yard wall,	137 82
I. Batchelder, for money advanced to	
buy oxen for Town Farm,	108 00
David Hovey, for guide boards,	3 33
Starrett, Downs & Co., for wood, &c.,	50
Wm. Bixby, interest on literary fund,	13 92
Geo. F. Pettee, school books furnished	
indigent children,	77
Wm. H. Johnson and Daniel F. Patch,	
for ringing bell, digging and filling	
graves,	49 25
John Richardson, interest on note,	10 06
Issachar Dodge, repairing blinds and	
clapboards on meeting house,	2 50
J. C. Follansbee, services appraising	
real estate of town,	22 50
P. C. Butterfield, for do.	22 50
David Butterfield, for do.	26 00

AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,	\$2017 07	\$2058 02
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AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,	\$2017 07	\$2058 02
Luke W. Preston, blacksmith work on meeting house and grave yard,	40	
I. Batchelder, repairs on meeting house,	1 27	
For cash paid D. Clark fee,	5 00	
Nathan Farnum, for cash, paid by him for traverse runners for hearse,	8 00	
N. & H. D. Epps, for ironing hearse,	12 00	
Jane McLane, interest on note,	26 04	
N. Farnum, collector for abatement of Abram Hodgman, Benj. F. An- drews and A. Robbins taxes, at their request,	5 01	
Also, for abatement of taxes, not collect- able,	4 70	
N. Farnum, guide posts and sundry bills	4 60	
Clarinda McCurdy, interest on note,	18 18	
N. Farnum for surveyor's books,	4 23	
K. W. Emerson, for sundry bills,	10 62	
Samuel D. Downs, for posting box,	2 25	
Wm. Butterfield, for painting guide boards,	2 50	
E. Dockham, services as constable,	2 50	
		\$2124 37
		\$4182 39

SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Wm. Bixby, services as Town Treasurer,	\$10 00	
Nahum Farnum, do as Selectman,	48 86	
Luther Hardy, do. do.	38 23	
K. W. Emerson, do. do.,	36 50	
Samuel D. Downes, do. as Town Clerk,	14 00	
Israel Batchelder, do. as Overseer Poor,	21 60	
Israel Batchelder, do. Agent Town Farm,	12 00	
Nahum Farnum, do. collecting taxes,	51 72	
P. H. Bixby, do. accountant,	1 50	
M. G. Starrett, do. do.,	1 50	
		\$235 91
Total amount of disbursements,		\$4418 30
Whole amount of receipts,	5086 27	
Whole amount of disbursements,	4418 30	
Balance in hands of the Treasurer,		\$667 97

STATEMENT.

Debts due sundry persons, on notes, from the town with interest up to March 8th, 1859,	\$5911 29
Balance in the Treasury deducted,	667 97

Leaving town in debt, \$5243 32

The foregoing accounts are correctly cast and duly vouched.

P. H. BIXBY, }
M. G. STARRETT, } *Accountants.*

REPORT OF AGENT OF TOWN FARM.

Israel Batchelder, agent for the Town Farm, reports as follows, viz :

SAID FARM IN ACCOUNT. DR.

To cost of Farm,		\$2,664 38
Amount of Stock appraised last year,	\$510 00	
“ Hay and Straw, “ “	122 00	
“ Farming Tools, “ “	127 00	
“ Miscellaneous articles “ “	53 01	
“ Provisions, “ “	259 76	
“ Household Furniture,	147 49	
		\$1219 26
Interest on Farm,		159 86
There will be due Israel Batchelder, April 1, 1859, for money advanced to Daniel Banks for services rendered on Farm,		220 00
Agent's services,		12 00
		\$4275 50

Appraisal of Property, Feb. 18, 1859,

By farm,		CR.	\$2664 38
	LIVE STOCK.		
1 yoke oxen 115.00, 6 cows 170.00,	285 00		
3 young cattle 36.00, 1 horse 75.00,	111 00		
21 sheep 69.00, 2 swine 19.00,	88 00		
8 fowls,	2 00		
			\$486 00
	HAY AND FODDER.		
12 tons hay,	120 00		
Corn fodder 4.00, straw 3.00,	7 00		
			\$127 00
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,			\$3277 38

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,

\$3277 38

FARMING TOOLS.

1 ox cart 24.00, 1 wagon and harness 16.00,	40 00
1 sleigh 2.00, 1 wheelbarrow 2.00,	4 00
3 plows 12.00, 1 harrow 2.00,	14 00
1 cultivator 3.00, 2 sleds 4.00,	7 00
2 iron bars 2.00, 3 chains 3.00,	5 00
1 whiffletree and chain 1.00, 2 yokes 2 00,	3 00
2 shovels 1.00, 4 hoes .80,	1 80
3 scythes and sneaths,	3 00
1 bush scythe,	50
1 horse rake 4.00, hand rakes 75,	4 75
3 hay forks 1.00, 3 manure forks 1.25,	2 25
5 axes 3.25, 1 beetle and wedges 1.25,	4 50
Carpenter's tools,	2 00
2 wood saws 2.00, 1 grind stone 2.00,	4 00

 \$95 80

PROVISIONS.

75 bush. corn 75.00, 11 1-2 bush. wheat, 20.12,	95 12
2 bush. Beans, 3.00, 1 bush. colored Beans 1.25,	4 25
100 bush. potatoes 30.00, 2 bush. Rye Meal 2.00,	32 00
50 lbs. Flour, 2.00, Corn Meal 1.75,	3 75
2 bush. Cob Meal 1.00, 30 bush. Car- rots 7.50,	8 50
2 1-2 bush. H. G. Seed 8.00, 280 lbs. Salt Pork 35.00,	43 00
150 lbs. Salt Beef 9.00, 107 lbs. Ham 13.37,	22 37
Fresh Beef 1.25, Sausage Meat 2.00,	3 25
79 lbs. Butter 15.80, 88 lbs. Cheese 8.00,	23 80
62 lbs. Lard 8.60, 17 lbs. Candles 2.34	10 94
30 lbs. Dried Apple 2.40, Dried Pumpkin 0.50,	2 90
Green Apples 0.50, Groceries 1.00,	1 50
Garden Sauce,	2 50

 \$253 88

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

1-2 bbl. Soap 2.00, lot Soap Grease 1.00,	3 00
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AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,

 \$3 00

 \$3627 06

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,	\$3 00	\$3627 06
3 Baskets 1.00, 4 lbs. Wool Yarn		
4 00,	5 00	
6 prs. Footings 2.40, 41 lbs. Wool		
16.40,	18 80	
Col'd Wool 0.25, Dry Casks 0.75,	1 00	
8 Butter Tubs 1.75, 14 bushels		
Ashes 2.33,	4 08	
Set Measures 0.50, 6 bunches Shin-		
gles 6.00,	6 50	
		\$38 38
Household Furniture,		147 49
Cash in Agent's hands for articles		
sold from the Farm,		22 23
		\$3835 16

SCHEDULE OF ARTICLES SOLD FROM THE FARM,

WITH THE AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR THE SAME, DURING THE YEAR ENDING
FEBRUARY 18, 1859.

1 Colt 25.00, 1 yoke Oxen 112.50,	137 50	
1 pr. yearling Steers 14.25, 3 Calves		
15.00,	29 25	
1 Calf 8.00, 1 Lamb 2.00,	10 00	
17 Fowls 3.06, 20 1-2 doz. Eggs 2.71,	5 77	
442 1-2 lbs. Butter 82.05, 23 lbs.		
Cheese 2.02,	84 07	
10 1-2 bush. Corn 10.50, 5 bushels		
Beans 8.75,	19 25	
7 1-2 bush. Potatoes 3.75, 1 Hide 3.75,	7 50	
25 lbs. Ham 3.25, 42 1-2 lbs Fresh		
Beef 3.19,	6 44	
31 1-2 lbs. Fresh Pork 2.83, 8 quarts		
H. G. Seed 0.62,	3 45	
Pumpkins 4.62, Squashes 0.53,	5 15	
Hemlock Bark 0.60, Sheep's Pelt 75,	1 35	
8 prs. Footings 3.33, 16 prs. Foot-		
ings 6.00,	9 33	
Garden Sauce,	27	
Worked out Israel Batchelder's high-		
way tax for the year 1858,	5 96	
		\$325 29
Which is accounted for as follows :		
Cash paid for one yoke Oxen,	108 00	
2 swine 8.00, 1 plow 6.50,	14 50	
AMOUNT CARRIED FORWARD,	\$122 50	

AMOUNT BROUGHT FORWARD,	\$122 50	
1 copper boiler 2.60, threshing wheat 2.62,	5 22	
Paid Daniel Tobie for advertising and hiring help on the Farm,	1 95	
Paid for cording wood 0.80, Deering Taxes 1858 0.48.	1 28	
Paid for use of side-hill plow,	67	
“ filing saws,	75	
“ repairs on sleigh and cart,	70	
“ plank,	56	
“ new-laying axes 1.50, four rake teeth, 0.67,	2 17	
Paid Tobie for taking colt to H. Grimes', Hillsborough,	50	
2 hoes 1.24, 1-2 bush. corn 0.62,	1 86	
John H. Patch store bill,	13 29	
2 bbls. Flour 12.00, 2 scythes 1.50,	13 50	
25 clover seed 2.50, shoes and boots 6.27,	8.77	
Nails 2.62, 5 bush. Rye 5.00,	7.62	
Paid Starrett Downes & Co's Store bill,	25 66	
6 bush. potatoes 3.00, 1 stove 2.50,	5 50	
Blacksmith's bill,	11 08	
Bonnet for Mrs. Hutchinson,	71	
Sundry small bills,	4 22	
Tubing for chain pump and work,	3 03	
4 1-2 days work, repairs on buildings,	5 85	
Paid for labor on the Farm,	65 57	
		\$302 96
Cash in Agent's hands,		22 33
		\$325 29

The whole number of paupers who have been partially supported on the Farm is eleven. Average number, six and one half. The whole expense of supporting paupers on the Farm, according to this report, is \$440.34. It should, however, be borne in mind, that there was last year twelve bushels more wheat appraised than was on the Farm. Also, some twenty dollars worth of lumber which has since been used on the buildings, together with several small bills contracted in 1857, but paid this year, which reduces the above amount to \$392 22 being the actual expense of supporting paupers on the Farm.

The support of paupers off the farm is \$282.39, making a total of \$674.61 for the support of paupers during the past year. There

is an expectation to recover from the Town of Deering \$107.41 paid for the support of Ira Brown and family, included in the above amount.

ISRAEL BATCHELDER,
Agent for the Pauper Farm.

REPORT OF THE AGENT FOR SELLING LIQUOR.

Town of Francestown in account with Wm. H. Johnson, Agent,
from April 16, 1858 to Feb. 16, 1859.

Dr.

To 166 3-4 galls. old Rum, purchased at Sundry times, as per Bills,	59 14
79 1-2 galls. Alcohol, do. do.	47 38
35 do. Gin, do. do.	36 79
6 do. Bourbon Whiskey,	12 00
Paid Freight on same,	8 12
Commission and Trucking,	1 04
Kegs for same,	3 25
Record Book,	20
Fassetts, Corks, Paper, &c.,	72
Moving Liquor from N. B. Marden's,	1 50
Interest on cash advanced,	2 50
Purchasing Liquors,	1 00
Agent's salary for 10 months at \$50 per annum,	41 67
	\$215 31
Balance due the Town from the Agent,	29 74
	\$245 05

Cr.

By cash received for Liquors sold,	
119 galls. Rum,	93 11
62 1-2 " Alcohol,	69 94
21 1-2 " Gin,	40 87
1-2 " Bourbon Whiskey,	1 50
4 3-8 " Brandy,	26 75
1-4 " Cherry Brandy	97
1 3-8 " Whiskey,	3 23
1 3-16 " Port Wine,	4 18
Casks sold,	4 50
	\$245 05

There is now on hand the following amount of Liquors belonging to the Town, viz :

42 galls. Rum,	16 80
12 " Alcohol,	7 80
15 3-4 galls. Gin,	15 75
5 1-4 " Bourbon Whiskey,	10 50
9 7-16 " Brandy,	40 10
3 3-4 " Cherry Brandy,	7 50
7 3-8 " Whiskey,	11 06
7 3-16 " Port Wine,	19 52
Freight on same,	2 70
Lot Casks,	8 00
Measures, Tunnels, Fassets, &c.,	2 00

\$141 73

Deduct amount of Liquors received of last year's Agent,

\$111 83

Amount of gain on the Stock,

\$29 90

Amount of profits on sales, being amount due from Agent,

29 64

Amount of gain to the Town for year,

\$59 74

Whole number of sales, 1064. For Mechanical and chemical purposes, 112. Medicinal purposes, 952.

W. H. JOHNSON.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, HILLSBOROUGH SS.—Personally appeared the above named W. H. Johnson and made oath that the foregoing statement by him signed, is according to the best of his knowledge and belief true.

Before me, PAUL H. BIXBY, *Justice of the Peace.*

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In accordance with the laws of the State and the custom of his predecessors, your Committee would make a brief report of the Schools in Francestown, together with such statements and suggestions as he may deem necessary for their advancement and success. Your Committee is aware that to write a report which would exactly suit *all*, would require more than the pen of an angel. Parents love to hear their children commended; pupils love to be flattered, and teachers love to be spoken of in high term. This is all very natural; but for none of these have we any honeyed words, unless in our opinion, deserving. The basis upon which this report, imperfect though it may be, is founded, is the general appearance of the Schools at the commencement and close at which times your Committee has visited every School in town.

It has been my object when visiting schools at the commencement to ascertain the teacher's ability for teaching and governing—the general knowledge of the pupils and to throw out such hints to teacher and scholars as were deemed necessary to promote the good of the school. At the close I have endeavored to test their proficiency in the various branches to which they had attended, learn their general deportment in the school-room, &c.

Now a few statements for each school.

DISTRICT No. 1.—Prudential Committee, Samuel W. Eaton. Length of Summer Term, 12 weeks. Whole number scholars, 19. Average attendance, 12. Wages per month, \$12. Geraldine S. Kennedy of Deering, teacher. This can be reckoned No. 1 only in name. The school appeared well at its commencement, with 20 scholars. The teacher was fully competent, as far as education was concerned, with a good share of energy and a seeming desire that order and regularity should be the inmates of the school-room; but there seemed to be a wanton disposition, on the part of some, to disobey, and I am sorry to report that the parents of those scholars encouraged disobedience rather than good order. The teacher was not so judicious in her manner of government as could be desired; admitting this, the parents did an injury to the school and no credit to themselves by encouraging disobedience. When will the parents of No. 1 learn to appreciate the value of a good education? When will they cease to think that "a little learning is a dangerous thing?" When will they, by teaching their children obedience at home, help sustain good, wholesome regulations of a teacher? We hope, soon. Only nine scholars were present at the close of the school. Those who attended regularly made *some* improvement.

WINTER TERM.—Length of School, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 15. Average, 12. Wages per month, \$18. The Winter Term was taught by Hannah Lewis, of Greenfield, a tried and approved

teacher, under whose judicious treatment, the school, in a good measure, atoned for the general disorder and disaffection of the previous summer. Parents had no fault to find and scholars acted in unison with the will of their teacher. Very great improvement was exhibited in reading and spelling, showing the right kind of teaching. School House *bad*.

DISTRICT No. 2.—Prudential committee, Samuel P. Newton. Length of summer term 14 1-3 weeks. Whole number of scholars 23—average 16. Wages per month \$7, exclusive of board. Laura J. Dean, teacher. This school was a successful one. Notwithstanding the teacher had under her care a homogeneous mass, collected from divers places, and in an irregular manner, a friendly feeling existed in the school-room, and by the persevering efforts of the teacher, aided by pupils and parents, a good degree of improvement was effected.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school 11 weeks. Whole number of scholars 22—average 17 1-3. Wages per month \$18. The winter term was taught by Sara F. Bickford of Hillsborough. The teacher strove hard to enforce upon her pupils the importance of rightly improving their time; and that she well succeeded was evident to the many spectators, who were themselves eye-witnesses, at the closing examination. The teacher was not afraid of labor; the pupils knew it, and imitated her example, thereby treasuring up for themselves much knowledge. Classes in arithmetic excelled. The best recommendation was “union.”

DISTRICT No. 3.—Prudential committee, John H. Patch. Length of summer term 16 weeks. Whole number of scholars 54—average 39 1-3. Wages per month \$16. This school was taught by Mary J. Colburn of New Boston. Here, where if ever, the teacher needs to have the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Samson and the patience of Job, to enable her to faithfully discharge her duties, we found an orderly school; and, considering the irregularity of attendance, and the great amount of tardiness (only 579 instances), appeared well, and showed a fair degree of improvement. Perhaps some thought too much “corporal” was used; upon this point, suffice it to say, if a little more had been used at *home*, the teacher would not have been under the necessity of using so much at *school*. The school was too large for any one teacher to properly govern and instruct. Absences and tardiness are too prominent characteristics of the school, for which parents are in a great degree accountable.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school 12 weeks; whole number of scholars 47; average 42; wages per month \$45; M. Bradford Boardman, of Amherst College, teacher. Here we found assembled a *large* number of *small* people. The teacher needs no praise of mine. That he was well adapted to his task, a large number of *learned ones*, who witnessed the closing exercises, will testify. The pupils made good improvement, considering the size of the school; but the number was too large to do all justice. According to a vote of the district, 10 scholars were selected from the school and placed in the Academy, under the charge of S. B. Stewart, B. A. Your committee would recommend it as economy to make a division in this school. There are a sufficient number of scholars for two schools. A male teacher could manage all the larger scholars, including those now sent to the Academy, and a female would be much better adapted to the wants of the smaller craft.

DISTRICT No. 4.—Prudential committee, Francis H. Duncklee; length

of summer school 10 weeks ; whole number of scholars 17 ; average 16 ; wages per month \$14 ; Theresa A. Morgan presided over the rising generation of this section in a satisfactory manner. This district has had the service of some faithful teachers for two successive summers. The closing exercises evinced to the many parents present, that the teacher knew how to govern—to make study pleasant—give variety to the youthful mind, and make the school room a place to be desired. Grammar and reading appeared well.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school 11 weeks ; whole number of scholars 22 ; average 19 : wages per month \$19. The winter term was taught by Caroline L. Patch, under whose charge scholars made a fair degree of proficiency. The classes in Reading and Geography made the most improvement. The scholars were punctual. This school is not quite so far advanced as we should expect, considering its past advantages. There seems to be a sort of restlessness pervading a part of the school, which, together with a little lack of interest, hinders its progress.

DISTRICT No. 5.—Prudential committee, John G. Morse ; length of summer school 12 weeks ; whole number of scholars 27 ; average 24 ; wages per month \$15. This district was favored with the services of an experienced and efficient teacher, Martha Ober, of Amherst, whose good qualities for maintaining order and imparting instruction were appreciated by parents and pupils. Nothing but words of commendation and praise are due to teacher and scholars. Everything was pretty near as it should be—school house excepted.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school 12 weeks ; whole number of scholars 32 ; average 29 1-3 ; wages per month \$32. The winter term was under the tutorage of your humble servant. That parents are as much interested to see their children at school daily, and at the appointed hour, in this district as in any other, and that parents and pupils co-operate as heartily with their teacher, in making school what it should be, is not saying too much. Furthermore your reporter saith not.

DISTRICT No. 6.—Prudential committee, George Kingsbury, Jr. ; length of summer term 11 weeks ; whole number of scholars 13 ; average 11½ ; wages per month \$12 ; teacher Florence A. Dodge. This school was small, both in numbers and size—hardly enough to keep up an interest ; but the teacher by being apt in imparting instruction, and in seeking out means of interesting the young mind and giving it something upon which to work, made the term a profitable one. *Much* improvement was made in reading.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school 12 weeks ; whole number of scholars 16 ; average 12 ; wages per month \$14. This school was commenced by Alice M. Kingsbury, under whose management, the school, when visited by your committee, appeared exceedingly well. After having taught some seven weeks, giving general satisfaction, as we believe, she was obliged, from unavoidable circumstances, to leave the school—a regret to teacher and scholars. After a week's vacation, was re-commenced by Margianna L. Hardy. The pupils present at the closing examination appeared well, and showed good teaching and training ; but there is an evil which exists to a great extent in this district, which very much hinders the progress of the school. I refer to tardiness and absence. Parents, you not only squander away the money appropriated for school purposes, and injure your own children, by

allowing such pernicious practices, but do harm to the children of those who are disposed to make the most of their school and money.

DISTRICT No. 7. Prudential committee, David D. Dennison. Length of Summer School, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 23; average, 21; wages per month, \$8, exclusive of board. Frances Mitchell of Hooksett, had charge of this school. The government of the school was good, and the closing exercises showed thoroughness in teaching. This is the best classed school of any in town. In reading and spelling the scholars excelled.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school, 10 weeks; whole number of scholars, 25; average, 22; wages per month, \$18. Martha S. Noyes of Bow, teacher. Here was a good school, ranking high when compared with other schools in town. There were more reasons than one why they had a good school. First—they had one of the best of teachers. Second—they had the right kind of material of which to make a school; and third—parents took interest enough in the welfare of their children to see that they were “*thar*.” What more would you have? Miss Noyes won the love and respect of *all* her scholars, and acquitted herself well. May she again visit these shores.

DISTRICT No. 8.—Prudential Committee, M. Dutton. Length of summer school, 12 weeks; whole number of scholars, 14; average, 9 1-2; wages per month, \$11. This school was taught by Addie H. Hardy, who had taught two previous terms in the same district. This little school still maintains its former reputation as a pleasant, quiet school; the will of the teacher being that of the parents. The government of the school, which was good, was maintained by pleasant looks and kind words. The smaller scholars, in particular, made great proficiency, and displayed an amount of knowledge which would do honor to many of a maturer growth. The attendance was a little below the mark.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school, 12 weeks; whole number of scholars, 18; average, 14 2-3; wages per month, \$15. This school suffered naught by a change of teachers, Miss Hardy still occupying the chair. This school prospered finely. Scholars not only understood the rules, but knew how to put them into every-day practice. The classes in arithmetic excelled.

DISTRICT No. 9.—Prudential Committee, Henry Spaulding. Length of school, 12 weeks; whole number of scholars, 23; average, 18; wages per month, \$12. This district, having scarcely families enough to entitle it to a name, and a place in which to assemble not worthy the name of school-house, was favored with the services of an experienced teacher, Caroline L. Patch, under whose charge scholars from four different towns met and made such progress as to reflect much credit upon teacher and scholars. Some excellent grammarians were here found.—Only one term during the year.

DISTRICT No. 10.—Prudential Committee, William R. Sawyer.—Length of summer school, 12 weeks; whole number of scholars, 10; average, 7 2-3; wages per month, \$14. This school, which is formed by the union of part of Lyndeborough and Frankestown, was taught by Sarah L. Cochran of New Boston. Although this was her first attempt at teaching, neither parents nor committee could say but that she was faithful in the performance of her duty—and the pupils could not say but they had a kind and competent teacher. A good beginning.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school, 12 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 13 ; average, 12 ; wages per month, \$12, exclusive of board.—Teacher, Mary L. Christy of New Boston. Here we find some excellent scholars, who only need a teacher—others, more dull of comprehension, need urging—others, who are exceedingly “old of their age,” who need both teacher and governor. While we would speak in high terms of the teacher’s capacity for teaching, we think a few of the larger boys were not obedient enough to the requirements of their teacher, and seemed to think it an *honor* to try the patience of their devoted teacher. If a female is to be hired for the winter school, parents should look to this matter.

DISTRICT No. 11—Prudential Committee, William Hopkins. Length of summer school, 12 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 9 ; average, 8 ; wages per month, \$12. This was a small school, but the teacher, Orra A. Hopkins, by gaining the good will of her pupils, made her task and theirs light and pleasant. At the closing examination, the scholars, by their promptness, spoke well for themselves and their teacher. In reading improvement was visible.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school, 10 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 19 ; average, 17 ; wages per month, \$14. The same teacher was engaged for the winter term, who fully sustained the good reputation she had earned the previous summer. You deserve a better school house. More anon.

DISTRICT No 11.—Prudential Committee, David Butterfield. Length of summer school, 10 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 8—5 of which belonged to this town ; average, 7 ; wages, \$6 per month, exclusive of board. Margianna L. Hardy had charge of this school during the summer term. This, which unites with a few families in New Boston, is a very small school, “not great but good.” This was Miss Hardy’s first attempt at teaching ; but the general deportment of the scholars during the term, and the good feeling existing between them and their teacher, as exhibited at the closing day, showed that the order had been mild but good, and the instruction thorough. Success awaits her as a teacher.

WINTER TERM.—Length of school, 12 weeks ; whole number of scholars, 15—7 belonging to this town ; average, 13 ; wages per month, \$20,80. Under so energetic a teacher as Letitia Gregg of New Boston, we had every reason to expect scholars would make *much*, and we were not in the least disappointed. All the classes appeared well. Good order, and promptness on the part of the scholars characterized the school. Miss Gregg is a thorough, practical teacher.

There have been 23 schools taught in town during the past year, affording 269 weeks of schooling—143 of summer—126 of winter. 240 scholars attended school during the summer term, and 244 in the winter.

The avails of the “Woodbury Fund,” \$60, has been drawn from the town treasury, and appropriated to the purchasing of such books as the Selectmen and Superintending School Committee deemed suitable ; and those books, 148 in number, have been distributed to the best scholars, agreeable to the requirements of the Will of the Hon. Levi Woodbury. Of the merits of these books, and their tendency upon the scholars, we have nothing to say.

We have thus endeavored to give you an inkling of the condition of the schools in Francestown. If, in any of our remarks, the teacher is not

rightly represented—if parents are not credited that to which they are entitled—if the merits of scholars are not shown in their true light—through ignorance we have done it.

There are many other particulars than those referred to, which might be mentioned in connection with the several schools. We might speak of the difference witnessed in the various schools as it regards interest in their studies—respect for their teacher—habits of punctuality—deportment towards visitors—care for the property of the District &c., but we will not dwell upon them, trusting that each district will strive not to be excelled by others.

The practice of simultaneous recitation is, in a few instances, too much practised. Our objections are, that a very few who are gifted with the faculty of telling *all* they know, will answer *all* the questions. What we wish is, that each scholar should be required to commit his, or her lesson, and be permitted time to answer the same, without being drowned out by the chorus of his more tonguey classmates.

Your committee would feel that he had but poorly discharged his duty, should he forbear saying a word upon the condition of some of our schoolhouses; but he is aware that in pointing out their imperfections and urging the rebuilding or repairing of them, the pockets of some would be called in question and all their tender sensibilities roused at once, and he be denounced as a mover of “new fangled notions,” and a sample of modern extravagance. Perhaps you say our schoolhouses are better than we used to occupy, this may be true; but because *you* never had good privileges, and never acquired a good amount of knowledge, do you wish to deprive your children of the proper means of getting an education, and have them grow up *ignoramus*es?

Let us look at some of the schoolhouses of our town, and then reason and reflect. Give old No. 1 a call, and mark (no not mark, for marks of time and violence are visible on every inch of its surface) see its backless and almost bottomless seats and creaking benches and say if you can reasonably expect children to obtain a very durable portion when everything about them is so frail and uncomely. Next call at No. 2; you will not have to go far from the main road, it meets you half way. Here “you behold a rather curious old structure, extremely well ventilated.” The situation is far from commanding, and its pent up walls would seem to give neither mind nor body much scope for expansion. Now No. 5; this is like very many mortals, the outside presenting far the best appearance, and that nothing of which to boast. The inside still retains the old down-hill grade, and seats and benches are very wonderfully carved by the hand of many a jack-knife boy. The internal arrangement is neither comfortable nor convenient, and the building is not in keeping with the prosperity of the district. Call at No. 11; you will not tarry long. The outside view is *bad*—the inside worse—and the location *worst*, it being surrounded by shrubs and lowlands. Parents can you for an instant suppose that your sons and daughters will entertain very exalted ideas of the value of common school instruction, while they either shiver with the winter’s cold, or become dizzy with the stagnant air of those narrow walls, without the first thing attractive. No. 12 is not what we wish, but N. B. may look after that. And why need I speak of No. 9, situated on Pisgah’s heights, commanding a view of what? Here is wretchedness beyond

description, a disgrace to the town, and anything but a recommendation to the district.

Can there not be a reform in these school houses? We do not advocate extravagance; we do not plead for costly edifices or cushioned seats; but ask for buildings that will tend to promote health to the inmates, which will be convenient for teacher and scholar,—in short, we want scholars to make the most of the short time allotted them for acquiring an education.

Your committee would congratulate the citizens upon the success of their common schools. We believe that as a general thing, Prudential Committees have been chosen, who have felt the importance of hiring good teachers. We think parents have visited schools more, and taken at least, no less interest in these humble institutions, over which it is every parent's duty to watch, than in previous years.

We also believe that, generally, teachers have been hired whose teachings have not been confined to text books, but were practical. Scholars have been more punctual and made as much improvement as previous years.

While we think teachers have well discharged their duty, parents have been more interested, and pupils have been more punctual, there is still more room for improvement. Who will not aid in this work? Who, when every consideration of interest, every prospect of earthly pleasure, every hope of future happiness urges to such a course, will not contribute to the extent of their power towards the physical, mental and moral education of our land?

We feel as we render up the trust, which our fellow citizens have committed to us, that matters of no trivial interest have been in our keeping. For whatever of faithfulness there has been on our part, we ask no praise; for whatever of neglect or other wrong, we ask pardon. If we have not advanced the cause of education, we trust we have not retarded it. Most sincerely do we desire that no unsightly mental or moral growth hereafter, shall be attributed to the wrong direction given to the pliant twig through the influence of your committee.

GEO. F. PETTEE, *Superintending School Com.*

FRANCESTOWN, February 24, 1859.

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Franktown, February 24, 1880
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